

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 remain pending in this application. Each of the pending claims is believed to define an invention that is novel and unobvious over the cited reference. Favorable reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been objected to due to an informality. Claim 7 has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner. Therefore, the withdrawal of the objection to claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Office Action states that it is unclear how excess charge is present in the signal charge output from the output register. As is described at page 9, paragraph 30 of the present application, charge is divided between the multiplication register and the additional register in two ways. In the embodiment of the invention shown in Figures 1 and 4, for example, the entire charge from the output register is transferred to the multiplication register and some charge transfers from the multiplication register to the addition register. In the embodiment shown in Figures 2 and 3, for example, the charge from the output register is separated so that part of the charge transfers to the additional register and part of the charge transfers to the multiplication register.

This charge transfer may be done so that the well capacity of the multiplication register is not exceeded. The charge transfer to the additional register is therefore "the excess charge". In the case of claim 7, in the embodiment illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, the charge being output from the output register includes this "excess charge". If the charge is not separated and transferred to the additional register but instead the entire output of the output register is feed to the multiplication register, the well capacity of the multiplication register may be exceeded.

Consequently, in view of the description provided in at least the above mentioned portion of the specification, it is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the art when reading the claims in view of the specification would understand the claimed invention. Therefore, the withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Each of claims 1-12, 14-20 and 22-25 have been rejected, at least in part, over EP Patent Application Publication 1152469 to Hynecek. The Hynecek patent was published on November 7, 2001. The present application has a priority date of January 18, 2001. Consequently, Hynecek is not available as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 102(e) against the present application.

The other reference applied against the claims, U.S. Patent Number 5,867,215 does not disclose a multiplication register. Consequently, in view of the above, the withdrawal of the rejection of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 21 have been indicated as including allowable subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in allowable form. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of this application would be advanced by a personal interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by this Amendment to our Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Application No. 10/734,597
Amendment dated
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2007

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In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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